

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DLOS-06 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

NEA-10 RSC-01 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00

COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01

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TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJ: LOS: AMB STEVENSON STATEMENT IN COMITE 1, 18 OCT

TEXT FOLLOWS:

"MR. CHAIRMAN, ON CONSIDERING A DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, OUR PRINCIPAL TASK MUST BE TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR THE TIMELY CONCLUSION OF A LAW OF THE SEA TREATY-- A TREATY WHICH CAN BE WIDELY SUPPORTED BY NATIONS FROM ALL GEOGRAPHIC AND OTHER GROUPINGS AND WHICH WILL TRULY ESTABLISH A UNIVERSALLY RESPECTED LEGAL REGIME FOR THE OCEANS.

"THE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH LED THE 25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1970 TO CALL FOR A CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA HAVE, WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, THE PROGRESS OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE ALMOST DAILY INCREASE IN CONFLICTING USES OF THE
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OCEANS, BECOME EVEN MORE COMPELLING. THUS, IT HAS BECOME

EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO CONCLUDE THESE NEGOTIATIONS IN A TIMELY FASHION AND TO ESTABLISH A STABLE AND EQUITABLE REGIME FOR THE OCEANS WHICH WILL BENEFIT ALL NATIONS.

"IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS COMMITTEE AND THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS SO THAT THE CONFERENCE CAN PROMPTLY INITIATE AND COMPLETE THE WORKS. MY DELEGATION IS CONVINCED THAT WITH GOOD WILL AND HARD WORK A SUCCESSFUL TREATY CAN AND MUST BE ACHIEVED WITHIN THE TIME SPECIFIED BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION 3029.

"IN COMMENTING ON THE SPECIFICS OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMEN OF THE SEABEDS COMMITTEE, AMBASSADOR AMERASINGHE, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THERE IS NO ONE WAY TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS FOR AN EFFICIENT AND MEANINGFUL CONFERENCE. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THIS GOAL. DELAY, INEFFICIENT PROCEDURES, PROCEDURES WHICH FAVOR ANY ONE GROUP OR COUNTRY AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS, OR PROCEDURES WHICH FAIL TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR A WIDELY ACCEPTABLE TREATY ULTIMATELY WORK AGAINST US ALL.

"MR. CHAIRMAN, WE BELIEVE THAT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH PROPOSES TWO SUBSTANTIVE SESSIONS IN 1974 IS USEFUL IN EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEGOTIATIONS IF WE ARE TO CONCLUDE OUR WORK IN A TIMELY FASHION. TWO SESSIONS WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS TO CONTINUE THE PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS AND WE WOULD FAVOR THIS SCHEDULE. HOWEVER, IF THIS COMMITTEE PREFERS INSTEAD A SINGLE SESSION, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT AS A MINIMUM THAT THE SINGLE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION BE OF SUFFICIENT LENGTH TO PERMIT MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS. IN OUR VIEW, THIS WOULD REQUIRE AT LEAST TEN WEEKS OF SUBSTANTIVE WORK. FURTHER, WE THINK IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT, IF THERE WERE TO BE A SINGLE SESSION, THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD AGREE ON AN EFFECTIVE INTER-SESSIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK AND THE RESOLUTION SHOULD REFLECT THIS AGREEMENT. PROVISION SHOULD

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BE MADE FOR THE COMPLETION OF CONSOLIDATED DRAFT TEXTS OF ARTICLES OR ALTERNATIVE TEXTS BY ANY SUITABLE MEANS AND TO ENCOURAGE THE NECESSARY NEGOTIATIONS EITHER UNDER CONFERENCE AUSPICES OR UNOFFICIALLY. THE DISTINGUISHED DELEGATE OF MEXICO YESTERDAY SUGGESTED ONE INTERESTING PROPOSAL FOR ACHIEVING THESE GOALS THROUGH HOLDING A MEETING OF A MAIN COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE. THERE MAY WELL BE OTHERS. PERHAPS THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COULD BE EM-

POWERED TO WORK WITH INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS IN SEEKING TO CONSOLIDATE PROPOSALS. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT WE NOW LEAVE THE PREPARATORY PHASE AND ESTABLISH THE MECHANISMS FOR REAL NEGOTIATIONS.

"ON THE QUESTION OF PROCEDURE, MY DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO STRESS ONE CONCERN WHICH, WE BELIEVE, IS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE--THAT THE CONFERENCE PROCEDURE SHOULD BE SUCH AS TO ASSURE THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE AN OVERALL PACKAGE SETTLEMENT WITH THE WIDEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT. IF THE NEW LAW OF THE SEA TREATY HAS THE SUPPORT OF ONLY CERTAIN GROUPS OF COUNTRIES OR OF ONLY CERTAIN REGIONS, THEN WE WILL HAVE FAILED IN OUR EFFORTS. WE ARE SATISFIED THAT COMMON GROUND DOES EXIST AND THAT A CONVENTION OF GENUINELY BROAD ACCEPTABILITY CAN BE ACHIEVED.

"IN ORDER TO OBTAIN BROAD SUPPORT, WE SHOULD HAVE NOT ONLY EFFICIENT PROCEDURES BUT PROCEDURES WHICH WILL ALLOW MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT. WE BELIEVE THAT A KEY TO THIS IS A MECHANISM WHICH WILL ASSURE AN ORDERLY AND TIMELY SHIFT FROM CONSENSUS PROCEDURES, (WHICH, OF COURSE, DO NOT REQUIRE UNANIMITY), TO CONFERENCE VOTING ONLY WHEN THE BASIS HAS BEEN LAID FOR A COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL SETTLEMENT.

"AGAIN, MR. CHAIRMAN, MY DELEGATION ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO A SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT OF THIS VOTING QUESTION. A METHOD MUST BE FOUND WHICH WILL ASSURE THAT VOTING AT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD ONLY OCCUR WHEN THERE IS BROAD GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG DELEGATIONS THAT THE TIME IS READY.

"IN CONCLUSION, LET ME REITERATE THE CONVICTION OF MY
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DELEGATION THAT WE NOT ONLY CAN, BUT WE MUST MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY INTO A GENUINE NEGOTIATING PHASE.

"A TIMELY AND EQUITABLE LAW OF THE SEA TREATY IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL NATIONS. WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS OBJECTIVE AS WE FOCUS ON THE SPECIFICS OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA."
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